

## CLAIMS

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1       1. A method for operating an automated data storage library including dual media  
2       accessors to transport portable data storage media among sites in the library, where each  
3       accessor is associated with an accessor controller and a metadata concerning library  
4       properties of prescribed types, and the library additionally contains a version code  
5       corresponding to each metadata, the method comprising operations of:

6               operating both accessor controllers to perform the following management operations,

7                       in each case these operations being performed by a subject accessor controller  
8                       in regard to an other accessor controller and an other version code  
9                       corresponding to the metadata associated with the other accessor controller:  
10                      the subject accessor controller advancing the version code corresponding to the

11                      associated metadata in accordance with changes to said metadata;

12                      responsive to predetermined input stimuli, performing operations comprising:

13                      the subject accessor controller retrieving the version code corresponding

14                      to the associated metadata;

15                      only if the retrieved version code does not match the other version code,

16                      performing operations comprising:

17                      if the retrieved version code is more advanced than the other

18                      version code, sending the subject accessor's associated

19                      metadata to the other accessor controller;

20 if the other version code is more advanced than the retrieved  
21 version code, receiving the other accessor's associated  
22 metadata and utilizing said received metadata to update  
23 the subject accessor's associated metadata.

1 2. The method of claim 1, the operations responsive to the predetermined input stimuli  
2 further comprising at least one of the following:

3 receiving the other version code from the other accessor controller, and comparing the  
4 retrieved version code with the other version code;  
5 sending the retrieved version code to the other accessor controller for comparison, and  
6 receiving results of the comparison from the other accessor controller.

1 3. A method of operating an automated data storage library that includes multiple  
2 accessors for transporting portable data storage media and, for each accessor, associated  
3 components including a controller to manage the media accessor, metadata containing  
4 information representing prescribed types of library properties, and a metadata version code,  
5 where each controller advances the associated version code in response to changes to said  
6 metadata, the method comprising operations of:

7 responsive to predetermined stimuli, the accessor controllers comparing their  
8 associated version codes and if the version codes do not match, updating one  
9 of the metadata having a less advanced version code with contents of the other  
10 metadata.

1       4.     The method of claim 3,  
2                 the library including multiple version codes associated with different subparts of each  
3                         metadata;  
4                 the operations further comprising each controller advancing each version code in  
5                         accordance with changes occurring to the associated subpart of the  
6                         corresponding metadata;  
7                 the comparing and updating operations being repeated for each version code.

1       5.     The method of claim 3, the metadata of each accessor having multiple subparts each  
2                 having a different corresponding version code, the method further comprising repeating the  
3                         management operations on behalf of each metadata subpart and its corresponding version  
4                         code.

1       6.     The method of claim 3, each version code comprising a subpart of the associated  
2                 metadata.

1       7.     At least one signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying at least one program of  
2                 machine-readable instructions executable by one or more digital processing apparatuses to  
3                         perform operations to manage an automated data storage library including dual media  
4                         accessors to transport portable data storage media among sites in the library, where each  
5                         accessor is associated with an accessor controller and a metadata concerning library

6 properties of prescribed types, and the library additionally contains a version code  
7 corresponding to each metadata, the operations comprising:  
8 operating both accessor controllers to perform the following management operations,  
9 in each case these operations being performed by a subject accessor controller  
10 in regard to an other accessor controller and an other version code  
11 corresponding to the metadata associated with the other accessor controller;  
12 the subject accessor controller advancing the version code corresponding to the  
13 associated metadata in accordance with changes to said metadata;  
14 responsive to predetermined input stimuli, performing operations comprising:  
15 the subject accessor controller retrieving the version code corresponding  
16 to the associated metadata;  
17 only if the retrieved version code does not match the other version code,  
18 performing operations comprising:  
19 if the retrieved version code is more advanced than the other  
20 version code, sending the subject accessor's associated  
21 metadata to the other accessor controller;  
22 if the other version code is more advanced than the retrieved  
23 version code, receiving the other accessor's associated  
24 metadata and utilizing said received metadata to update  
25 the subject accessor's associated metadata.

1       8.     The medium of claim 7, the operations responsive to the predetermined input stimuli  
2     further comprising at least one of the following:  
3              receiving the other version code from the other accessor controller, and comparing the  
4              retrieved version code with the other version code;  
5              sending the retrieved version code to the other accessor controller for comparison, and  
6              receiving results of the comparison from the other accessor controller.

1       9.     At least one signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying at least one program of  
2     machine-readable instructions executable by one or more digital processing apparatuses to  
3     perform operations to manage an automated data storage library that includes multiple  
4     accessors for transporting portable data storage media and, for each accessor, associated  
5     components including a controller to manage the media accessor, metadata containing  
6     information representing prescribed types of library properties, and a metadata version code,  
7     where each controller advances the associated version code in response to changes to said  
8     metadata, the operations comprising:

9              responsive to predetermined stimuli, the accessor controllers comparing their  
10             associated version codes and if the version codes do not match, updating one  
11             of the metadata having a less advanced version code with contents of the other  
12             metadata.

1       10.    The medium of claim 9,

2                   the library including multiple version codes associated with different subparts of each  
3                   metadata;  
4                   the operations further comprising each controller advancing each version code in  
5                   accordance with changes occurring to the associated subpart of the  
6                   corresponding metadata;  
7                   the comparing and updating operations being repeated for each version code.  
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1         11. The medium of claim 9, the metadata of each accessor having multiple subparts each  
2                   having a different corresponding version code, the operations further comprising repeating the  
3                   management operations on behalf of each metadata subpart and its corresponding version  
4                   code.

1         12. The medium of claim 9, each version code comprising a subpart of the associated  
2                   metadata.

1         13. At least one logic circuit of multiple interconnected electrically conductive elements  
2                   configured to perform operations to manage an automated data storage library including dual  
3                   media accessors to transport portable data storage media among sites in the library, where  
4                   each accessor is associated with an accessor controller and a metadata concerning library  
5                   properties of prescribed types, and the library additionally contains a version code  
6                   corresponding to each metadata, the operations comprising:

7 operating both accessor controllers to perform the following management operations,  
8           in each case these operations being performed by a subject accessor controller  
9           in regard to an other accessor controller and an other version code  
10          corresponding to the metadata associated with the other accessor controller:  
11          the subject accessor controller advancing the version code corresponding to the  
12           associated metadata in accordance with changes to said metadata;  
13          responsive to predetermined input stimuli, performing operations comprising:  
14           the subject accessor controller retrieving the version code corresponding  
15           to the associated metadata;  
16          only if the retrieved version code does not match the other version code,  
17           performing operations comprising:  
18           if the retrieved version code is more advanced than the other  
19           version code, sending the subject accessor's associated  
20           metadata to the other accessor controller;  
21          if the other version code is more advanced than the retrieved  
22           version code, receiving the other accessor's associated  
23           metadata and utilizing said received metadata to update  
24           the subject accessor's associated metadata.

1       14. At least one logic circuit of multiple interconnected electrically conductive elements  
2       configured to perform operations to manage an automated data storage library that includes  
3       multiple accessors for transporting portable data storage media and, for each accessor,

4 associated components including a controller to manage the media accessor, metadata  
5 containing information representing prescribed types of library properties, and a metadata  
6 version code, where each controller advances the associated version code in response to  
7 changes to said metadata, the operations comprising:

8 responsive to predetermined stimuli, the accessor controllers comparing their  
9 associated version codes and if the version codes do not match, updating one  
10 of the metadata having a less advanced version code with contents of the other  
11 metadata.

12

13 15. An automated data storage library, comprising:

14 library infrastructure including one or more storage slots and one or more media access  
15 drives;

16 dual media accessors to transport removable media about the library infrastructure;  
17 for each accessor, associated components including a controller, metadata containing  
18 information representing prescribed types of library properties, and a metadata  
19 version code;

20 the controllers configured to perform operations comprising:

21 advancing their associated version codes in response to changes to their  
22 associated metadata;

23 responsive to predetermined stimuli, comparing their associated version codes  
24 and if the version codes do not match, updating one of the metadata  
25 having a less advanced version code with contents of the other metadata.

1       16. An automated data storage library, comprising:

2           dual media accessors to transport portable data storage media among sites in the

3           library;

4           associated with each accessor, a metadata concerning library properties of prescribed

5           types;

6           a version code corresponding to each metadata;

7           associated with each accessor, an accessor controller configured to perform

8           management operations, in each case these operations being performed by a

9           subject accessor controller in regard to an other accessor controller and an other

10          version code corresponding to the metadata associated with the other accessor

11          controller, the management operations comprising:

12          the subject accessor controller advancing the version code corresponding to the

13           associated metadata in accordance with changes to said metadata;

14          responsive to predetermined input stimuli, performing operations comprising:

15          the subject accessor controller retrieving the version code corresponding

16           to the associated metadata;

17          only if the retrieved version code does not match the other version code,

18           performing operations comprising:

19          if the retrieved version code is more advanced than the other

20           version code, sending the subject accessor's associated

21           metadata to the other accessor controller;

22 if the other version code is more advanced than the retrieved  
23 version code, receiving the other accessor's associated  
24 metadata and utilizing said received metadata to update  
25 the subject accessor's associated metadata.

1 17. An automated data storage library, comprising:

2 library infrastructure including one or more storage slots and one or more data storage  
3 drives;

4 dual media accessor means for transporting removable media about the library  
5 infrastructure;

6 for each accessor means, associated components including metadata containing  
7 information representing prescribed types of library properties, and a metadata  
8 version code;

9 controller means for managing the accessors by:

10 advancing their associated version codes in response to changes to their  
11 associated metadata;

12 responsive to predetermined stimuli, comparing their associated version codes  
13 and if the version codes do not match, updating one of the metadata  
14 having a less advanced version code with contents of the other metadata.

1 18. An automated data storage library, comprising:

2                   dual media accessor means for transporting portable data storage media among sites  
3                   in the library;  
4                   associated with each accessor, a metadata concerning library properties of prescribed  
5                   types;  
6                   a version code corresponding to each metadata;  
7                   associated with each accessor, an accessor controller means for performing  
8                   management operations, in each case these operations being performed by a  
9                   subject accessor controller means in regard to an other accessor controller  
10                  means and an other version code corresponding to the metadata associated with  
11                  the other accessor controller means, the management operations comprising:  
12                  the subject accessor controller means advancing the version code corresponding  
13                  to the associated metadata in accordance with changes to said  
14                  metadata;  
15                  responsive to predetermined input stimuli, performing operations comprising:  
16                  the subject accessor controller means retrieving the version code  
17                  corresponding to the associated metadata;  
18                  only if the retrieved version code does not match the other version code,  
19                  performing operations comprising:  
20                  if the retrieved version code is more advanced than the other  
21                  version code, sending the subject accessor means'  
22                  associated metadata to the other accessor controller;

23 if the other version code is more advanced than the retrieved  
24 version code, receiving the other accessor means'  
25 associated metadata and utilizing said received metadata  
26 to update the subject accessor means' associated  
27 metadata.

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